

SPECIAL PLACES

Summer 1995

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The Holbrook property in central Massachusetts.

Photographs: K. A. Wollensak

Scenic Property in Rutland Moves a Step Closer to Conservation

The Trustees of Reservations is working to make an 80-acre parcel of land its next reservation. The Massachusetts Land Conservation Trust, Inc., (MLCT), an affiliate organization of The Trustees, has accepted a gift of one-third undivided interest in a parcel of land in Rutland, the geographic center of Massachusetts. Barbara Phillips has generously contributed her share of this property to MLCT with the hope the land will ultimately become a reservation, owned and managed by The Trustees. That goal will be accomplished when the other two-thirds interests are acquired.

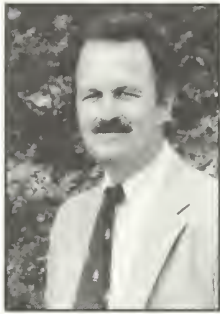
The Holbrook property is highly visible from Rutland's Main Street, providing views of the historic farm house and its surrounding fields and woods. Old stone walls enclose a wildflower meadow and orchard, and outline former agricultural fields, pastures and cart paths. The interior is an open

hardwood and pine woodland which has grown up in abandoned fields and pastures and includes an understory of scattered mountain laurel and low bush blueberry. A remarkable ledge outcropping gives the woods a rugged character. A small pond and wetland system are other features of conservation interest. As open space, the property is important for maintaining the rural character of the nearby village center.

The property had belonged to Alma Holbrook, a lifelong Rutland resident, who died in 1991 without a will. The property was inherited by her three nieces, including Barbara Phillips, the donor. Miss Holbrook did leave a collection of written statements that, while not legally binding, clearly expressed her wish to preserve this property forever and that it never be developed.

(Continued on page 3)

Dear Friends and Trustees:



"How do you expect to get there if you don't really know where you're going?" So asks Marc Smiley in a recent article on strategic planning for the Land Trust Exchange – a good question and one that every organization needs to ask itself from time to time. At The Trustees of Reservations, our last hard look at this question was nearly 10 years ago, resulting in a major long-range planning effort, with broad participation of volunteers and staff. That effort was enormously successful, forging a consensus within the organization and devising a blueprint which has guided us ever since. In the ensuing years The Trustees has had its nose to the grindstone adding 10 new reservations, 46 conservation restrictions, and tripling its membership. Now it's time again to look up, around, and forward. It's time for a new strategic planning process. It's time for "Trustees 2000"!

But why now, when the old long range plan seems to be working just fine? Here are three quick reasons. First, the organization is healthy and strong. While there are a lot of awesome challenges, there is no immediate all-consuming crisis (knock on wood!). It's a good time to take stock and look ahead.

Second, times change. The realities we dealt with in 1985 are not the realities of today and certainly not the situation we will be facing in the year 2000. We live in a dynamic and changing world. Demographics, pressures on the land, public demand, sources of revenue, management know-how, volunteer involvement, the role of government – all are evolving. The Trustees must be aware of the changing scene and be prepared to meet these changes.

Finally, it's fair to say that the successes of the last several years have brought with them a number of growing pains. While annual giving and endowment have increased dramatically since our last long-range plan initiative, so have budgets. We are constantly ratcheting up to meet increased responsibilities in land protection, property management, monitoring of conservation restrictions, and servicing of members. Though professional staff has grown in this period from 50 to 72, staff workloads seem to have grown even faster. It's time to thoroughly review what we do as a staff and focus on what's most essential to our mission. Otherwise, growth and success will mean a growing angst among a staff spread too thin – a feeling of too much work and too few resources.

I'm pleased to report that a close look inward – Phase I of Trustees 2000 – has been completed. A task force made up of 9 staff representatives from across the organization worked from January to June to make a range of recommendations regarding work planning, personnel policies and internal communications. The task force, chaired by Deputy Director for Planned Giving Eloise Hodges did a remarkable job and presented its report to the Executive Committee in June. By fall we should be ready to begin work on Phase II. That's when the circle will widen to include board and members and we all must ask ourselves, "Where do we want The Trustees to be in the year 2000 and how will we get there?"

Frederic Winthrop, Jr.
Director



The Trustees of Reservations is dedicated to preserving for public use and enjoyment properties of exceptional scenic, historic and ecological value across Massachusetts. Founded in 1891, it is the world's oldest land trust.

Today, The Trustees owns and manages 77 properties, totaling approximately 19,500 acres, and protects an additional 9,700 acres through the use of conservation restrictions.

The Trustees of Reservations is a private, non-profit organization and relies for support entirely upon membership dues, contributions, admission fees, grants and endowments.

Frederic Winthrop, Jr.
Director

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Deputy Director for Finance and Administration

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Richard O'Brien
Central Region

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Western Region

Scenic Rutland

(Continued from front cover)



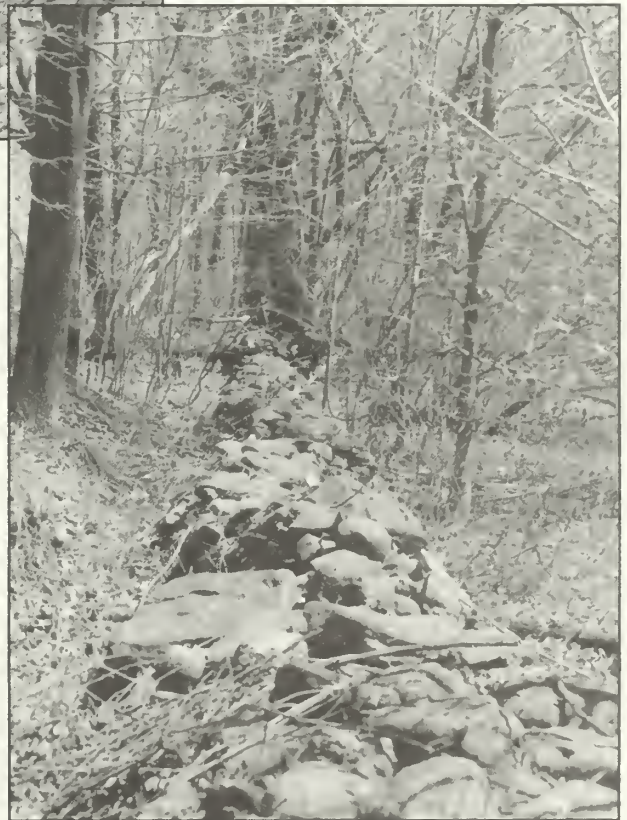
Trustees' staff from across the state worked together to restore a loop trail and revitalize the Holbrook property in Rutland.

Barbara Phillips was committed to two goals when she decided to make a gift of her share of the property: First, that it remain unspoiled and, second, that people have the opportunity to enjoy its fields, woods and natural beauty. Says Barbara Phillips, "It's very important to me that this land, which has been in my family for several generations, never be developed. I am so pleased that the Massachusetts Land Conservation Trust has agreed to work towards its permanent protection. I am very hopeful that a conservation solution will ultimately be reached and that The Trustees will be able to establish a new reservation." Fred Winthrop agrees, "We hope that we can make amicable arrangements with our co-owners that will result in the permanent conservation of the important features of the Holbrook property."

The remaining two-thirds interest in the property are owned by Miss Holbrook's other two nieces. However, Cleland Blair, a Rutland-based developer, has a purchase agreement for these two shares. As a result, the future for the Holbrook property is unpredictable. Because the three interests are undivided, all three owners must come to unanimous agreement about any subdivision, sale or other disposition of the land; if agreement is not possible, litigation may ultimately be required to separate the stakes. Undivided ownership is not a case of majority rule – any owner, no matter how small a fractional interest, has as much right to use jointly-owned property as any other.

"For the time being," says Winthrop, "this unusual situation serves the conservation of the property. As long as MLCT's name remains on the deed, the property won't be developed."

This spring, staff of The Trustees convened for a one-day cleanup at the property. Crews from around the state cleared intrusive growth from the fields and stone walls and restored a trail. The appearance of the property from Main Street was restored, including views of rolling wildflower meadow, orchard, woods and stone walls – scenic respite much appreciated by the community.



The Holbrook property is highly visible from Rutland's Main Street, providing views of the fields and woods surrounding the historic farm house.

For the present, the property will not be open to the general public. However, The Trustees are establishing a "Friends of the Holbrook Property" group who will agree to inspect and monitor the property. This group will also advise MLCT as it makes progress in resolving the ownership question.

Individuals interested in helping The Trustees in this capacity should contact Sue Halpin at the The Trustees Central Regional Office at (508) 840-4446. 🌿



Photographs: David Powell

At the conclusion of The Trustees recent trip to Scotland, Director Fred Winthrop chats with Mr. Roger Crofts, Chief Executive of Scottish Natural Heritage and Mr. Graeme Munro, Director and Chief Executive of Historic Scotland at a reception honoring The Trustees of Reservations hosted by the National Trust for Scotland at the Trust's headquarters, the Georgian House, Charlotte Square, Edinburgh.



Caught in a quiet moment at the close of The Charles Eliot Society dinner are Harry and Gale Guild, who hosted the event at their home in Dover. Harry Guild is the founding Chairman of The Charles Eliot Society and Gale was instrumental in the founding and success of The 1891 Society in the 1980s.



Labor-In-Vain Golf Tourney a Great Success!

On a June weekend, hundreds of people enjoyed a once-in-a-lifetime experience – playing the Labor-in-Vain Country Club golf course in Ipswich originally laid out by Richard Crane. Now owned by his granddaughter, Tatiana Bezamat, the course was put in shape for playing on this one weekend to benefit the restoration fund of Castle Hill. Our thanks to everyone who supported this unique event and particularly to the committee, who made it all possible.

Aerial photographs of the three-day event are available for purchase. If you are interested, please call Julie Phillips at The Trustees' Northeast Regional Office (508) 356-4351.

Co-Chairpersons:

Tatiana Bezamat and
Jane Wykoff
Lynda Baker
Claire Berlin
Elizabeth Dick
Arden Dore
Cathy Greenough
Kate Griswold
Meg Hall
Christine Kroft
Toril Lampert
Debbie Ledbetter

Tammy & Chris
MacKenzie
Betsy Madsen
Carole Moore
Phil Myers
Barbara Parker
Holly Pulsifer
Betty Raymond
Didi Ryland
Paula Shorts
Susie Winthrop
Jim Wykoff



Photograph: K. A. Wollensak

"A course with a view" offered players a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

C ♦ A ♦ L ♦ E ♦ N ♦ D ♦ A ♦ R

A Listing of Updated and Newly Scheduled Events

S ♦ E ♦ P ♦ T ♦ E ♦ M ♦ B ♦ E ♦ R

NATURE NOTES

Raptor migration!

Hawk watchers all over North America wait with bated breath for mid-September. This is the beginning of a massive push southward by Broad-winged hawks (*Buteo platypterus*). They boil skyward in groups called kettles. Some kettles contains thousands of hawks. Although smaller kettles are the norm in our area, they still inspire a feeling of awe, and are a great thrill to watch.

There are several places in Massachusetts where you can witness this incredible sight. Weather conditions permitting, September 10 through 18 is the best time to view Broad-wing movement. Following a strong- to moderate weather front, head for:

Berry Mt., Pittsfield State Forest, Pittsfield (*fair-good*)

Blue Hills, Milton (*fair-good*)

Goat Peak, Mt. Tom State Reservation, Holyoke (*best*)

Hurlburt's Hill, Bartholomew's Cobble,

Ashley Falls (*fair-good*)

Monument Mountain, Great Barrington (*fair-good*)

Mt. Everett State Reservation, Mt. Washington (*fair-good*)

Wachusett Mountain, Princeton (*good-best*)

FRI, SEPT 8

Hawks Over Hurlburt's Hill

Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600

Join Naturalist Don Reid for a hike up Hurlburt's Hill. At the top, enjoy the views and look for the first signs of a major hawk migration beginning by mid-September. On the way up, learn about the natural history of this special area of Bartholomew's Cobble. 10 AM - 2 PM. Member adults \$3, children 6-12 \$1. Non-member adults \$5, children \$2.

SAT, SEPT 9

Moonlight Meander

Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600

Nature by moonlight, a rare treat! A great deal of our native wildlife becomes active after the sun sets. What better time to go, to look and listen? 7:30 PM. Member adults \$3, children 6-12 \$1. Non-member adults \$5, children \$2.

SAT, SEPT 9

225th Anniversary Festival

The Old Manse, Concord. 508-369-3909

An afternoon event that includes living history depicting the well-known residents of the house including Emerson, Ripley and Hawthorne.

Noon - 4 PM. For additional information and fees, please call 508-369-3909.

FRI, SEPT 15

Hawks Over Hurlburt's Hill

Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600

September 12-15 are target dates of the mass movement of hawks, including Broad-winged, in our area. This year, hike to the top of Hurlburt's Hill at Bartholomew's Cobble, identify migrating hawks, and hopefully observe the first large kettles of broad-wings moving through. If not, observe other hawk species and enjoy the spectacular views.

9 AM - 2 PM. Member adults \$3, children 6-12 \$1. Non-member adults \$5, children \$2.

SAT-SUN, SEPT 16-17

Revolutionary War Encampment

Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600

Take part in the daily life of America's colonial army. Two hundred colonial period re-enactors will camp on the grounds of the Colonel John Ashley House. Military drills, artillery demonstrations, camp life, cooking, and crafts will be part of this educational program at the Colonel Ashley House and Bartholomew's Cobble. The entire camp will be open to the public. An event for all ages. Bring a picnic lunch or enjoy food sold on site. Ample parking. Saturday, 10 AM - 4 PM. Sun-day, 10 AM - 3 PM. Adults \$3, children 6-12 \$1. Follow the signs from Route 7 in Sheffield to The Ashley House, or call (413) 298-3239 or (413) 229-8600 for more information.

FRI, SEPT 22

The Life History of Hawks: A Workshop

Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600

Regional Ecologist Don Reid will present this slide program on the life history of raptors (hawks) and their field identification. The program will be followed the next day with a hike or drive up one of the area's hawk-watching sites to test your skills in the field. 7 PM. Member adults \$3, children 6-12 \$1.

Non-member adults \$5, children \$2.

SAT, SEPT 23

Hawks: Field Identification

Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600
Moving the previous night's workshop on raptors into the field, Regional Ecologist Don Reid will lead a hike to the top of a local hawk-watching site, help with bird identification, and talk about the behavior of these amazing birds of prey. Member adults \$3, children 6-12 \$1. Non-member adults \$5, children \$2. *Meet at the Cobble at 9 AM.*

FRI, SEPT 29

The Natural History of Hurlburt's Hill

Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600
Hike to the top of Hurlburt's Hill at Bartholomew's Cobble, identify hawks, learn about their life histories, and enjoy the incredible views. Along the way, learn about nature's preparations for the harsh winter ahead. 10 AM - Noon. Member adults \$3, children 6-12 \$1. Non-member adults \$5, children \$2.

O ♦ C ♦ T ♦ O ♦ B ♦ E ♦ R

NATURE NOTES

When the monarch butterfly heads south during the first two weeks of October, it is completing a complex cycle of life. This fragile insect will migrate by the thousands in early October to a mountain range not far from Mexico City, Mexico. It will winter there, then return to the north in early spring, in one of nature's most wondrous mysteries.

The monarchs you see heading south in October are not the same insects that left Mexico the previous spring. Many cycles have been completed in order to close this circle of life.

When the monarchs leave Mexico in spring, they stop near Texas to complete the first cycle. They lay their eggs on milkweed, and die. Their eggs hatch, metamorphose, and follow the milkweed north. This northward movement continues through several cycles of life until the final hatch reaches New England and areas farther north.

The genetic mystery that codes this northernmost monarch hatch for a much longer life span enables these butterflies to travel several thousand miles back to Mexico, spend the winter, and begin the process again.

SUN, OCT 1

Concours d'Elegance

Grand Allée, Castle Hill, Ipswich. 508-356-4351
Castle Hill hosts Concours d'Elegance, organized by the Vintage Sports Car Club of America. The Concours features pre-World War II American

and European cars and pre-1960 vintage racing and sports cars. Blue Horizon Jazz Band sets the mood by performing "twenties" and "thirties" favorites on the back patio of the Great House. Stroll the lawn, enjoy a picnic lunch, and view the crème de la crème of classic cars displayed on the Grand Allée. Experience the splendor of a bygone era when style, engineering, and elegance were the watchwords of the automobile industry. 10 AM - 4 PM. Member adults \$8, children 6-12 \$4. Non-member adults \$10, children \$5. *Gate admission only. No rain date.*

FRI, OCT 6

The Natural History of Hurlburt's Hill

Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600
We will make our way to the top of Hurlburt's Hill at Bartholomew's Cobble, learning about hawks and enjoying the amazing vista from the top. Along the way, we will also learn about nature's preparations for the harsh winter ahead. 10 AM - Noon. Member adults \$3, children 6-12 \$1. Non-member adults \$5, children \$2.

SAT, OCT 7

Nature Photography in the Fall

Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600
Is it time you moved past the basics of 35mm photography? Join John Green, well-known naturalist and nature photographer and use fall in New England as your backdrop. John will show you how it's done. He will answer all those nagging questions and teach you to photograph in balance with nature in this six-hour field course. Space is limited. *Please pre-register.* 8 AM - 2:30 PM. Member adults \$25. Non-member adults \$30.

SUN, OCT 15

Fall Foliage Picnic

Rocky Woods Reservation, Medfield. 617-821-2977
Bring a picnic and enjoy the fall foliage at one of our most popular properties! Guided walks, games for children, and tractor-drawn hayrides will all be offered. The Marine Modelers Club will demonstrate their scale model, remote controlled boats on Chickering Pond. Noon - 4 PM. Member adults and all children, no charge. Non-member adults \$2.50.

FRI-SUN, OCT 20-22

Fall in the Berkshires

Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600
Join Naturalist Don Reid on this fall adventure into the Berkshire mountains and pristine New England lakes. Enjoy incredible vistas while learning about the natural history associated with birds such as raptors and waterfowl, and mammals such as beaver as they prepare for winter. Call (413) 229-8600 or write to Regional Ecologist Don Reid, The Trustees, P. O. Box 128, Ashley Falls, MA 01222 for information and an itinerary.

FRI-TUES, OCT 27-31

Following the Birds South: An Exploration of the Mid-Atlantic Coast

Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600

Each fall thousands of waterfowl, raptors, shore-birds, and long-legged waders migrate south along the Atlantic Coast to the Delaware and Chesapeake Bay areas. Join Naturalists Don Reid and Rene Laubach as they lead you to some of the most spectacular wildlife refuges and conservation areas of this region. Visit Assateague Island National Seashore, Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, and Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge. *For more information and an itinerary, call (413) 229-8600 or write to Regional Ecologist Don Reid, The Trustees, P. O. Box 128, Ashley Falls, MA 01222.*

FRI, OCT 27 and MON, OCT 30

Halloween at The Great House

Castle Hill, Ipswich. 508-356-4351

Magician Lon Cerel brings Halloween to Castle Hill with a wave of his magic wand. Cerel's high jinks and amazing balloon creations leave audiences spellbound. Holding the world's record for the fastest balloon tying, Cerel creates an animal for every child. The readers of *R. I. Parents' Paper* voted him "Best Entertainer for a Kid's Birthday Party." Following the performance, cookies and punch are served in true "trick or treat" fashion. 4 PM. All tickets \$8. *Costumes are encouraged.*

SAT, OCT 28

Halloween at The Old Manse

The Old Manse, Concord. 508-369-3909

Ghosts galore at this annual, spooky event! Witness a funeral procession featuring the antique hearse of the Dee Funeral Home, see and hear the ghosts of The Old Manse. Procession leaves Dee Funeral Home at 4:30 PM. House tours from 5 to 8 PM. Refreshments served. *Please call for additional information and fees.*

N ♦ O ♦ V ♦ E ♦ M ♦ B ♦ E ♦ R

FRI, NOV 3

The Life History of Waterfowl: A Workshop

Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600

Join Naturalist Don Reid for this slide-assisted workshop on the identification and life histories of waterfowl. The workshop will be followed on Saturday with a trip into the field to put your identification skills to the test. 6 PM. Member adults \$3, children 6-12 \$1. Non-member adults \$5, children \$2.

SAT, NOV 4

Waterfowl: Field Identification

Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600

Naturalist Don Reid will lead this group to local lakes in search of waterfowl and help with identification. Bring binoculars and a spotting scope if you have one. Don will have one to share. Meet at Bartholomew's Cobble at 8 AM for car pool. Member adults \$3, children 6-12 \$1. Non-member adults \$5, children \$2.

SUN, NOV 5

In Search of the Golden Eagle

Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600

Mid-November is the most likely time of year to spot the very rare Golden Eagle in Southern Berkshire County. No guarantees on this trek, but the things we will learn about nature during our quest will be rewarding, no matter what. The top of Hurlburt's Hill or Mt. Everett at this time of year will give you a new respect for nature's struggle. If we decide to go to Mt. Everett, car pooling will be needed. 10 AM - Noon. Member adults \$3, children 6-12 \$1. Non-member adults \$5, children \$2.

SHORTS OF ALL SORTS

◆ A big thank you to **Richard and Catherine Steets** of Brookline, who answered our request for woodworking machinery for Greenwood Farm. The shop is becoming well-equipped thanks to their gift of a table saw, radial arm saw, jointer, drill press, router, hand tools, and clamps, along with a number of books, magazines, and videos on woodworking.

◆ The **Massachusetts Historical Commission Preservation Award** was presented to The Trustees on June 21, 1995, in recognition of the restoration of the Italian Garden at the Crane Memorial Reservation.

◆ Progress continues in our joint effort with the Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation to raise \$360,000 for the **Phelps Farm Preservation Project**, through which more than 660 acres of the magnificent Phelps Farm in south Williamstown have been preserved. Attached to one recent donation was this note: "I am enclosing a check for \$1,000 . . . This amount is the result of an addition to my WWII disability pension due to recent adjustments and I feel that it should be given to a good cause." Our greatest thanks to this donor, and to all donors and friends who continue to help us towards our ambitious goal!

Volunteers Benefit Membership Office

Susan B. McGarvey, Associate Director for Membership

The membership office is a busy place. This year we will process and acknowledge 16,000 gifts, prepare 2,000 renewal notices for bulk mailing each month, create 5,000 new member records, make address changes, and prepare 5,500 new member packets for distribution to field sites. Numerous phone calls will bring requests for membership information, pleas for replacement cards and questions about benefits.

Our crew of volunteers each contribute three to eight hours per week. Their extra hands do a mountain of clerical work. Membership Assistant Sue Small manages the flow of work and delegates the tasks. Our volunteers are a vital part of a department focused on providing cheerful and efficient service to you, our members. They are very special people. 🐾



Regina Cusick, Arlington, "I live in the city so I look forward to my weekend escapes; cross country skiing in the winter and the beach and hiking in the spring, summer and fall. What better way to spend some of my free time than to help out the organization that supports my favorite places."



Virginia Haywood, Topsfield, "I was looking for a productive way to spend a few hours on Friday afternoons, when I saw in my TTOR newsletter a request for volunteers to work in the membership office. It has turned out to be the perfect solution . . . a worthwhile organization, lovely surroundings and a friendly group of people."

Liz Howden (right), South Hamilton, "As a long-time member of The English National Trust, I was drawn to the ideals of preservation coupled with giving public access to areas of great beauty, especially gardens and houses. Being a resident alien with no Green Card, I was immediately intrigued to discover that the membership department was looking for volunteers. What better way to fulfill the need to help out, advance in a small way the cause of conservation and to put to use my knowledge of data processing and envelope stuffing!"

Elly Andrews (left), South Hamilton, "The Trustees was the first organization that caught my attention after returning to the United States after eight years abroad. The membership office issued a plea and I responded. It's nice to be able to help out in a small way for such a great cause."



Sue Small (right), Membership Assistant, with Corinne Languedoc, Hamilton, "This is a neat place!"



Carol French-Fuller, Bedford, "I strongly believe in the goals of The Trustees. The people are wonderful, the headquarters' setting beautiful. It is my pleasure to be a volunteer!"



Martha Collier (left), Beverly, "After thirty years in Virginia, I have recently returned to Massachusetts and I enjoy visiting the properties. I look forward to my work in the membership office and hope it is useful in attracting new members to The Trustees."



Sally Matkovich (right), Wayland, "After working in industry for many years, I'm delighted to be able to contribute time to a non-profit organization. Land conservation is a high priority for me. After only a few weeks of volunteer work, I'm highly impressed with The Trustees organization."

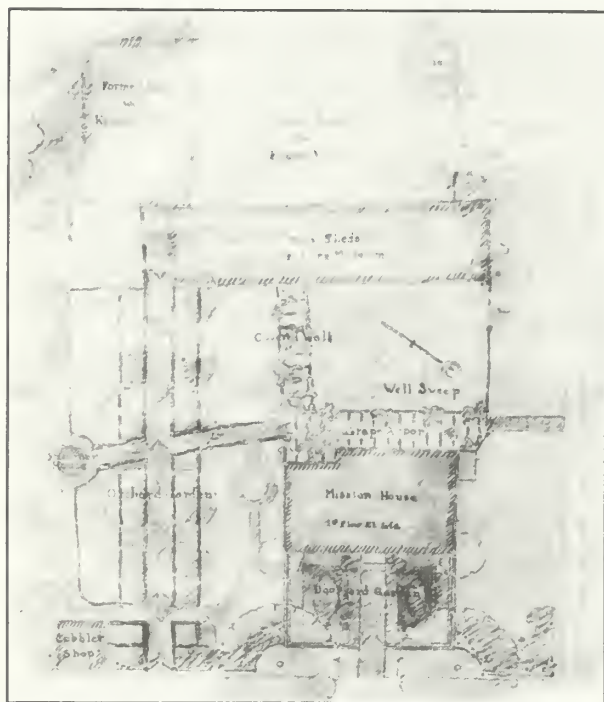


Alice Davis, Hamilton, "I enjoy giving a few hours a week to the membership department whose work is never ending! Long Hill not only has beautiful gardens, but a wonderful, warm and friendly staff. How nice it is to have volunteer opportunities in such a pleasant atmosphere and close to home."

Rediscovering Historic Gardens

Elizabeth Redmond, Associate Director for Historic Resources

Among The Trustees' historical collections is a little-known resource: a wealth of plans, photographs, planting lists and other written and printed material documenting the creation and development of the landscapes now in The Trustees' care. Interesting, and often beautiful in their own right, these documents are among the tools used by our property managers in restoring and maintaining our historic gardens.



Fletcher Steele's site plan for the Mission House.

The Trustees has long been recognized for careful stewardship of its historic landscapes – from vernacular, or traditional and functional landscapes like the farms surrounding the William Cullen Bryant Homestead in Cummington, to the highly artistic designs of professional landscape architects like Fletcher Steele, whose gardens at Naumkeag in Stockbridge are a masterpiece of early Modern landscape design.

For designed landscapes, preservation is both a science and an art. Gardens are continually evolving, with individual elements growing, changing and dying. Identification and preservation of historic plant material is an important first step, but when plantings have been lost or added over time, it is to the records we must turn to decipher the original intent of a garden. Historic garden plans and planting lists, old photographs and even diary entries, when interpreted by those knowledgeable both in plant material and garden history, provide the necessary information.

One of The Trustees' recent garden restoration projects was at the Mission House in Stockbridge, beginning in 1989. The Mission House was built in 1739 on

Eden Hill for John Sergeant, first minister to the Stockbridge Mohican Indians. By the twentieth century it was vacant and derelict, and between 1926 and 1932, Fletcher Steele and Mabel Choate collaborated to move, furnish and create a garden setting for the Mission House on Main Street. The garden Steele designed was inspired by his appreciation of the aesthetic and functional values of Colonial gardens at Mount Vernon and other historic sites. The result was evocative of the past, but included elements such as Oriental poppies and groupings of annual flowers that might not have been found in the eighteenth century.

As the Mission House became a museum, first operated by the Mission House Association in 1930 and then by The Trustees beginning in 1948, the garden came to be interpreted as an authentic Colonial garden, and bit by bit, as herb plants were added and raised beds constructed, it came to look more like one. When Superintendent Steve McMahon arrived at the property in the 1980s, he came across Steele's detailed plan for the original garden in the archives, and realized that the current garden had strayed significantly from it. In addition, trees on the small lot were overmature and shading the garden and the house.

In 1989, McMahon engaged nurserywoman and landscape architecture student Elizabeth Thompson as an intern to inventory existing plant material. A trip to the Steele archives in Syracuse, New York, yielded the nursery orders for the Mission House garden, and our own archives produced a 1937 bloom list and several glass lantern slides made soon after the garden was completed. From these sources, Thompson was able to draw up complete restoration plans. With generous funding from the late Rush Taggart of Stockbridge, and the support of local garden club members who had devoted many volunteer hours to the garden over the years, in 1991 ground was broken on the restoration.

Cornell University intern Maryanne Harris undertook the replanting project. In digging up beds to realign walkways to Steele's drawings, Harris discovered the original peastone paths, confirming the documentary research. McMahon tracked down unusual plants, such as the European spindle trees (*Euonymus europaeus*) specified for the front corners of the dooryard garden. Finally, last summer the project drew to a close as intern Adriane Fowler wrote an interpretive brochure with map and plant list which is available to visitors at the Mission House.

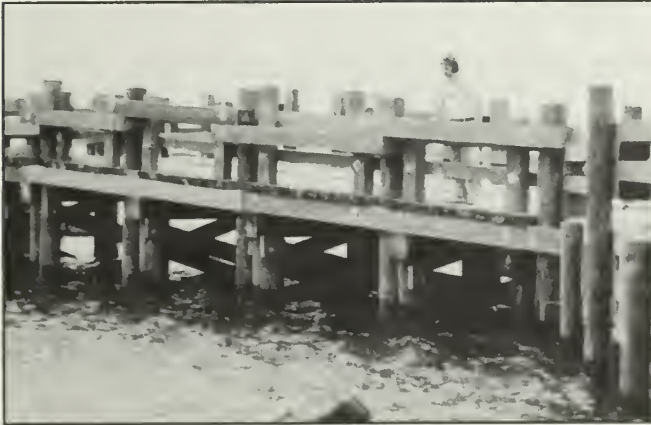
We welcome volunteer assistance with historic garden research and restoration. Please contact Elizabeth Redmond, Associate Director for Historic Resources, at (508) 921-1944, who will put you in touch with the appropriate property superintendent.

Chappy Bridge Reopens

This summer's reconstruction of the Dike Bridge on Chappaquiddick has improved access to one of the state's most spectacular beaches while creating new challenges for staff of The Trustees on Martha's Vineyard.

The bridge now has double side railings and gates at both ends to limit vehicle traffic when threatened shorebird species such as piping plovers are nesting on the beach during May, June, and July. Residents, fishing enthusiasts, and beachgoers are all delighted to visit East Beach and Cape Poge without a two-mile trek from Wasque Beach.

It has been seven years since the old Dike Bridge was closed for safety reasons, and during this time, improved



Photograph: R. T. Howe

The Dike Bridge on Chappaquiddick reopens East Beach access.

management practices have contributed to the initial recovery of several shorebird species, including piping plovers and least terns. Management techniques that were once considered appropriate, such as dune "restoration" with Christmas trees or snow fencing, have been replaced by new efforts that emphasize the health of the whole beach system.

These different techniques have assured the continued strength of the beach dunes and the protection of the saltmarsh behind the barrier beach. New efforts include channeling vehicle traffic away from dunes, wetlands and other sensitive areas and limiting the number of roadways. Pedestrians reach the beach on boardwalks, preserving the beachgrass that allows the dune to grow. And if The Trustees' environmental education program on the Vineyard has not yet reached all those tempted to jump off the dunes, signs and thin wire fencing help deter them.

The reopening of the Dike Bridge meant the reintroduction of a Trustees' gatehouse at East Beach, where visitors pay a small fee to help support management costs (there is no charge for members). Superintendent Dave Belcher and his crew also built new boardwalks between the gatehouse and the beach, finding a new material to replace the traditional pressure-treated wood. While there is no visible difference, the new walkways are made of a composite of wood chips and recycled plastic that promises to withstand traffic longer.

Although the East Beach boardwalks are new, a very old (and not-so-endangered) plant species is also helping to keep pedestrians on the straight and narrow: Mixed in with a healthy crop of dune beachgrass is a thriving population of good old poison ivy. ☛

THE SEMPER VIRENS SOCIETY



The Simplest Form of Planned Gift

If you wish to make a substantial gift to The Trustees of Reservations in the future without depleting your current assets, you can do so by bequest. A bequest is the simplest form of planned gift. To make a bequest, you add a codicil to your existing will and in so doing reduce the estate taxes on your estate.

Donors can leave a specific dollar amount or a percentage of the residue of their estate to The Trustees. Bequests of any amount are deeply appreciated. Some donors choose to leave unrestricted bequests — others prefer to restrict their bequests for a specific purpose. Before making a restricted bequest, it is best to consult with The Trustees, when possible, to ensure that your intentions can be honored.

All bequests are added to the endowment so that the donor's generosity may continue to support the land preservation work of The Trustees for years to come.

If you would like information about how to make a bequest to The Trustees or about a full range of planned giving options, please call Eloise Hodges, Deputy Director for Planned Giving, at 508-921-1944.

- ☐ I would like more information about the planned giving program of The Trustees.
- ☐ I intend to include The Trustees in my will; please send me information about making a bequest.
- ☐ I have remembered The Trustees in my estate plan and wish to become a member of *The Semper Virens Society*.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

*Please return this form to Eloise W. Hodges,
Deputy Director for Planned Giving,
The Trustees of Reservations, 572 Essex Street,
Beverly, MA 01915-1530.*

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The Trustees
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A Good Match

When The Trustees' affiliate, the Massachusetts Land Conservation Trust, Inc. (MLCT) moved to protect the 155-acre Cowell farm in Cummington last year, we wound up with a 200-year-old farmhouse on 18 acres in need of a buyer. Our Newsletter ad last fall brought a number of responses, including one from new members Nancy Childs and José Garcia, for whom it was love at first sight. "We have looked for a place since last summer, and this is the place we thought we would never find," wrote José the day after their first visit.

Despite a few anxious moments over inspection requirements, all worked out well, and on April 12, MLCT sold the property to Nancy and José. It's a good match. They are both accomplished teacher-naturalists, and their new property offers them opportunities to indulge their love of nature study, as it lies in the midst of a 1000-acre block of protected farm and forest land that has changed little since William Cullen Bryant walked these hills more than a century ago.

A month after the closing, Nancy and José wrote to us: "When we left the closing procedure, we felt mostly overwhelmed with the magnitude of the new responsibility. However, a couple of weekends ago



Painted Trillium. Pen and ink drawing by Nancy Childs

we spent about three hours on the land, walking, sitting, watching, and listening. Our experience of this visit included ovenbird, solitary vireo, black-throated green warbler, fresh signs of bear, painted trillium, wake-robin, trout lily, and spring beauty. We felt, for the first time, that we had started the process of becoming attached to this place. Thank you for making this possible."